

**Minutes of Wednesday, November 11th, 2024  
El Paso County Fair Board Meeting**

- Board Members:** Kate Johnson, Michael Publicker, Jeff Lapsansky, Amanda Hensen, Grant Harris, Ed Dills, Mel Trafton
- Associate Members:** Felicia Publicker, Wade Canaday
- Staff:** Theresa Odello, Andschana Aljets, Adam Baker, Skye Bogle, Jennifer Loewen
- Guests:** Patty Woodward, Stacy Cantu,Carolynn Hall, Sheila Canaday, Dee Trafton
- Excused Absence:** Amy Jo Fields, Dana Nordstrom, Michael Miller, Leasha LaBruzzi. Matt Zeiger, Jimmy Cochran, Amanda Sorrell, Jonathan Vrabec, Emily Green

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kate Johnson at 6:31p.m. We welcomed everyone and introduced ourselves.

**Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes**

Mel Trafton made a motion to approve the October 2024 Meeting Minutes and the November Meeting Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Publicker, the motion carried with approval.

**Public Comments**

- N/A

**Board and Staff Comments**

- N/A

**Action Items:**

**4.A.** Theresa Odello presented the proposed El Paso County Fair & Events Center 2025 Budget to the Fair Advisory Board for endorsement. There was an additional \$15,000 added to the budget this year, due to the County Fair continuously exceeding the revenue goal. The extra money was allocated to Entertainment, Printing and Binding and Advisory Board Expenses. Grant Harris made a motion to endorse the 2025 Fair & Events Center Budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Publicker and Mel Trafton, the motion carried with approval.

**4.B.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 Major Entertainment for the 2025 Fair for endorsement. There were five acts to endorse, and there was discussion about moving up entertainment contract timelines. Andschana and Theresa said they had a meeting with procurement, and they are currently working on a plan to move up the timeline so the Fair team and Programming Committee can plan entertainment acts for future Fairs more in advance. Michael Publicker made a motion to endorse the 2025 Major Entertainment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Lapsansky, the motion carried with approval.

**4.C.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 Major Events for the 2025 Fair. Major changes included moving the Monday night Auto Race to Friday night and bringing back a ticketed event on Thursday night. Along with five ticketed events, there will also be some free events in the Arena. Mel Trafton made a motion to endorse the 2025 Major Events, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Publicker, the motion carried with approval.

**4.D.** Andschana Aljets presented the 2025 County Fair Theme Days for endorsement. All theme days remained the same except for AG Day moving to Friday and voting for a new name for the Thursday theme day centered around community. The board was asked to vote on the name of the new theme day, the options were 'Fair Share Day' or 'Give & Gather'. Amanda Hensen made a motion to endorse the 2025 El Paso County Fair theme days, with 'Give & Gather Day' as the new theme day. Grant Harris 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the motion carried with approval.

**4.E.** Andschana Aljets presented the El Paso County Fair 2025 Gate Fee Schedule. The only changes that were made was adding the Rouch Stock Rodeo event as a ticketed event and the new Thursday 'Give & Gather Day' theme day being regular priced, unless you brought an item to donate, then you would receive a \$2 discount on your Fair ticket. Grant Harris made the motion to endorse the 2025 Gate Fee Schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amanda Hence, the motion carried with approval.

### **Committee Reports**

**5.A. – 5.E.** Staff members and Kate Johnson reported on their committees and their 2025 Committee Action Plans, and other various tasks to prepare for the 2025 County Fair. Kate Johnson announced the Fair Queen Clinic on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and asked for people to come and volunteer for the event.

### **Miscellaneous Reports**

**6.A.** Skye Bogle shared the Facility Use/Non-Fair programming report. All volunteers who helped with the 2024 Fall Fest were thanked for their help and contributions. The Country Holiday Fair was highlighted, and Board Members and Guests were asked to come and join to volunteer or to attend the event for fun.

**6.B.** 4H/CSU Ext. report was represented by Jennifer Loewen. She presented the 4-H/CSU Extension Programming updates through the end of the year.

**6.C.** Theresa Odello made a note that the Executive Admin Committee needs to be added to the Committee Reports. She gave a brief update on their progress with their committee action plans.

Theresa Odello also mentioned that December's meeting will be directly after the Fair Corporation meeting, so that both teams can attend both meetings and they enjoy the holiday party afterwards.

Skye Bogle announced that the Fair & Events Center team went to RMAF and won some awards. The team got first place for both photography entries, first place for their Fair poster and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their Fair Guide.

Next Meeting: Fair Advisory Board meeting, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – Swink Hall  
Kate Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.